

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 21, as follows:

B1  
The operation of the routine 900 can be further illustrated through an example utilizing specific exemplary data. In the example, a buyer sends out a request for quote (RFQ) requesting a lot of 2X4 S&B lumber consisting of five units of 2"x4"x8', two units of 2"x4"x14', and five units of 2"x4"x16'. The buyer then receives quotes from ~~tree~~ three sellers. Seller A responds with a tally of six units of 2"x4"x8', four units of 2"x4"x14', and three units of 2"x4"x16' for \$287 per thousand board feet. Seller B responds with a lot of five units of 2"x4"x8', one unit of 2"x4"x14', and six units of 2"x4"x16' for \$283 per thousand board feet. Seller C responds with a lot of one unit of 2"x4"x8', five units of 2"x4"x14', and five units of 2"x4"x16' for \$282 per thousand board feet. Suppose also that the typical unit size is 294 pieces/unit, and the metric or reported market price for 2"x4"x8's is \$287.50, for 2"x4"x14's it is \$278.50, and for 2"x4"x16's it is \$288.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 32, as follows:

B2  
Viewing the MBF prices for the respective quotes is not particularly informative, given that certain lengths of lumber are more desirable and priced accordingly in the marketplace. By processing the quote from Seller A using routine 900, we arrive at a total MBF of ~~152~~ 29.792, giving a total quoted price of ~~\$43,624~~ \$8,550.30. The selected metric price for the same types and quantity quantities of lumber would be ~~\$43,220~~ \$8,471.12; therefore the quoted price would have a percent of market value of 100.93%. Processing the quote from Seller B using routine 900, we arrive at a total MBF of ~~150~~ 29.400, giving a total quoted price of ~~\$42,450~~ \$8,320.20. The selected metric price for the same types and quantity quantities of lumber, however, would be ~~\$43,047~~, \$8,437.21; therefore the quoted price would have a percent of market value of 98.61%. Finally, processing the quote from Seller C using routine 900, we arrive at a total MBF of ~~158~~ 30.968, giving a total quoted price of ~~\$44,556~~ \$8,732.98. The

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B<sup>2</sup>  
selected metric price for the same types and ~~quantity~~ quantities of lumber, however, would be \$44,835 ~~\$8,767.66~~; therefore the quoted price would have a percent of market value of 99.38%. By looking at the percent of selected metric value, it is apparent that the price from Seller B is a better value. As shown in the methods of FIGURES 5-7, this price normalization process allows users to compare inherently different offers having different quality and ~~quantities~~ quantity values.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 14, as follows:

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B<sup>3</sup>  
In yet another example of an application of the normalization process, additional exemplary data is used to demonstrate the analysis of a transaction having one RFQ from a buyer and two different quotes from a seller, normalized to comparable product of another specie. In this example, the buyer produces an RFQ listing the following items: one carload of Eastern SPF (ESPF) lumber having four units of 2"x4"x8', four units of 2"x4"x10', six units of 2"x4"x12', two units of 2"x4"x14', and six units of 2"x4"x16'. The vendor then responds with two different quotes with two different unit tallies and two different prices. The first response lists a quote price of \$320 per thousand board feet and a slight modification of the tally provides four units of 2"x4"x8', four units of 2"x4"x10', six units of 2"x4"x12', three units of 2"x4"x14', and five units of 2"x4"x16'. The second response quotes per the requested tally at a price of \$322 per thousand board feet. Both quotes list the delivery location as "Chicago."

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